

Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America's Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center

WHEREAS, on July 28, 2009, the Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America will be holding a dedication and grand opening ceremony for their new Outdoor Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the Outdoor Education Center is a one-of-a-kind facility in the heart of Orange County which will allow young campers and adventurers to explore the outdoors and Orange County's native terrain; and

WHEREAS, the Center is located on 210 acres adjacent to Irvine Regional Park, on land donated by The Irvine Company; it is located within a half hour of most of the County's urban and suburban communities allowing for easy and inexpensive access to families of all economic backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, building of the Outdoor Education Center commenced in 2005; its facilities include a dining hall, six bunk houses, campsites, an aquatics center, amphitheater, hiking trails, BB gun range, archery range, nature center, Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience (COPE) course, training center, and three themed activities: Mining Camp, Ranch Camp, and Astronomy Camp; and

WHEREAS, Astronomy Camp features a telescope which enables students to learn about the stars, planets and other celestial bodies, as well as the science and history of aviation and space exploration; the Ranch Camp features a citrus grove plus strawberry, beet and lima bean fields in order to help students understand the agricultural history of Orange County as well as life sciences; the Mining Camp features a mine where students gain hands-on experience as they learn about the earth's underground resources and geology; and

WHEREAS, this is the largest capital project completed by the Boy Scouts of America in its 100 year history; \$33 million dollars has been raised in an effort to provide this facility to the community, and with the generosity of a number of individuals this facility is now open; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Outdoor Education Center is to serve all of Orange County's youths by providing quality outdoor educational programs that instill in them an appreciation for the outdoors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS does hereby congratulate and commend the Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America on the dedication and grand opening of its Outdoor Education Center, and send its best wishes for continued success in educating Orange County's youths about the outdoors and in all of its endeavors.

June 23, 2009